



TREE TRUST RECEIVES GRANTS FROM THE OTTO BREMER TRUST AND NASH FOUNDATION

\$95,000 in Grant Funding Invested in Transforming Lives & Landscapes in the Twin Cities Community

MINNEAPOLIS (December 19, 2019) – Tree Trust, a Minnesota-based nonprofit, today announced recent grants received from the Otto Bremer Trust and the Nash Foundation.

Tree Trust received a \$70,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Trust. Tree Trust will use this funding for programming to help young people overcome barriers to employment and connect them with jobs allowing them to support themselves and their families, now and into the future. This funding provides pathways to employment, and thus self-sufficiency, for young people experiencing barriers through job readiness training, paid work experience, career navigation, life skills training, and more. These services will be implemented through intensive, long term programming and targeted, short-term assistance.

"Tree Trust is a critical resource in providing employment training expertise and employer connections that fulfill an important economic need for vulnerable young people," said Charlotte Johnson, co-CEO and trustee, Otto Bremer Trust. "Their employment counselors also serve an important role connecting young people to basic needs, housing, and other services to ensure they are moving towards independence and self-sufficiency."

The Nash Foundation granted Tree Trust \$25,000 to be used in Tree Trust's Community Forestry program. Through planting trees at schools and parks, along hiking trails, and at residential properties, students, local residents, and community volunteers learn about and connect with the environment, while the environment is transformed and improved.

"Nash Foundation board members who attended a recent community tree planting were impressed by the collaboration among employer partners, students, Tree Trust staff, and volunteers", said Brooke Bailey, Nash Foundation President. "By offering young people the opportunity to learn tree care and property maintenance, Tree Trust promotes viable career pathways while beautifying the environment of the Twin Cities."

Tree Trust Executive Director and CEO, Jared Smith, stated, "These grants help make our mission of transforming lives and landscapes in the Twin Cities possible. We are most appreciative to the Otto Bremer Trust and the Nash Foundation for their willingness to invest in our efforts."

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About Tree Trust

Tree Trust, a nonprofit deeply-rooted in the community since 1976 and based in St. Paul, Minnesota, focuses on transforming lives and landscapes. Tree Trust accomplishes this mission by providing meaningful opportunities for greening local communities through tree planting and offering youth valuable work skills and experience through practical job training, creating a brighter future of self-sufficiency. Learn more at www.treetrust.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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About the Otto Bremer Trust

The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, Minn., is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$600 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Visit ottobremer.org.

About the Nash Foundation

The Nash Foundation is a private, family foundation that awards grants to not-for-profit organizations in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul. It was established in 1922 by Fred P. Nash and Willis K. Nash, founders of the Nash Finch Company, for “the care of the sick, aged and disabled, ministering to the needs of the poor, and the advancement or promotion and administration of charitable and benevolent aims.